Gale Memos - LH

Gale Memo 12/10/63

Dear Paul,

I've grown tired and sleepy so I may not have been as sensitive as I'd have liked in reading this Gale memo. I dozed off once or twice while reading it. However, I have some suggestions.

One is that when you are again in correspondence with the FBI over the Gale memos you ask for all copies of all the memos from all files. This one is not from any JFK or WC file and no duplication in any of this is indicated. This is 67-798 Serial 3050. The 67 code is "personnel matters- Bureau applicants."

From the slugging it should also have been at least in ~~$2~~ 105-82555. There is an illegible note in the left margin indicating something 8-24-64. There is also a date 11-12-7? (could be a 3).

While initial distribution was quite wide other names were added. I have not seen many referred to Evans, who was a liaison man, then staying in touch with Bobby.

Hoover's final note, on his personal routing slip, it not dated by him. However, J.B. added a note dated 4/7/64. The personal note that Hoover quotes directly does not appear on any of those pages. It cannot have been between the lines on page 5, most of which is ibliterated. However, it could have been on the personal statements said to be attached and not attached.

Although there is a stamp saying it is exempt under the General Declassification Schedule it is apparent that rather than meeting the criteria for "indefinite" exemption from declassification it did not in fact meet the standards for withholding at all.

(I hope you can keep a record of such things because it can be very helpful in litigation.As a result of a meeting I had today I may be trying to help Snepp, who might derive some benefit from this practise, even if not by CIA in this case.)

One of the obliterated names may be Fain's.

It may be that all signatories, especially when they knew JEH's attitude, really felt there had been "derelcitions." Hoover also may have. But I have seen enough of the impossible in Hoover's notes of this kind to suggest that you keep an open mind on another possibility: window dressing, creation of self-serving records.

It strikes me that many too many agents and higher FBI people made the same mistake. I just don't think that all would have been guilty of the same "transgression." The all know the first FBI rule is "cover the ass."

By this time there had been the flap over Curry and Revill's statements and some criticism of the FBI, too. By this time I'd submitted a lead and summary on a proposed magazine piece, "Lee Harvey Oswald Could not have been personna non grata to the FBI." So covering of ass could have had a number of different inspirations.

You regard the Gale memos as significant and they may well be in more than one way. So I'll make a copy for duplicate filings under "Gale Memos." This will make it easier to communicate and retrieve.

Beginning with this batch I'll also eekp all copies I get from you as I get them, by date with larger batches and by dates with smaller ones that will fit in a single folder and not take long to find.

You say Gardner is interested. I'll try to phone him in the a.m.